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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/770,917	02/03/2004	Arturo Mastelli	71312-0002	1695
35161	7590	06/23/2004		
DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC 1901 L. STREET NW SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20036			EXAMINER KATCHEVES, BASIL S	
			ART UNIT 3635	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/770,917	MASTELLI, ARTURO	
	Examiner Basil Katcheves	Art Unit 3635	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 February 2004.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 03 February 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 5 recites the limitation "the perimeter" in line 1 and "the space" in line 2.

There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.

Claim 6 recites the limitation "the upper edge" in line 1 and "the lower ledge" in line 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.

Claim 7 recites the limitation "the space" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 7 appears to be missing a "," between the word "tiles" and the word "gasket" in line 1. Clarification is required.

Claim 14 recites the limitation "the perimeter" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,724,465 to Krauss et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,506,482 to Pracht et al.

Regarding claims 1, Krauss discloses a curtain wall structure having a framework with a series of panels (fig. 6). Krauss also discloses an insulating panel (fig. 6: 42) being flush with the frame (fig 6: 50). Krauss also discloses an outer tile (fig. 6: U) which is secured to the insulating panel and to the frame. However, Krauss does not disclose tiles adhered to the panels with silicone. Pracht discloses tiles adhered with silicon (column 1, line 50) to a building wall (abstract). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Krauss by adhering tiles in order to improve the aesthetics and make a better bond to the panel.

Regarding claim 2, Krauss discloses the panel as having an edge with angles (fig. 6: see bottom perpendicular edge of 42).

Regarding claim 3, Krauss discloses the panels as being on the same plane as the front surface of the frame (fig. 6, see face of panel 42).

Regarding claim 4, Krauss discloses the use of fasteners to secure the panels to the frame (fig. 15: 99).

Regarding claim 5, Krauss in view of Pracht discloses the use of a silicon sealant under the tiles, thus placing it between the tiles and frame.

Regarding claim 6, Krauss discloses top and bottom retainers for securing the tiles to the frame (fig. 6: 40 & 48).

Regarding claim 7, Krauss in view of Pracht discloses the use of a silicon sealant under the tiles thus placing it between the tiles and frame.

Regarding claim 8, Krauss discloses the size of the panels as being substantially the same as the size of the frame openings (fig. 6) and the tiles as being larger than the frame opening (fig 6: U compared to 42).

Regarding claims 9, Krauss in view of Pracht discloses the basic claim structure of the instant application but does not disclose specific thickness. It would have been an obvious design choice to vary the thickness of tiles and panels in order to decrease or increase the curtain wall weight and strength.

Regarding claim 10, Krauss discloses the panels as having an edge portion (fig. 6: see bottom of 42) that has a rearward dimension that is greater than the thickness of the tile (fig. 6:U).

Regarding claim 11, Pracht discloses the use of ceramic tiles (column 2, line 53).

Regarding claim 12, Krauss in view of Pracht discloses the basic claim structure of the instant application but does not disclose specific dimensions. It would have been

an obvious design choice to vary the widths of tiles and panels in order to decrease or increase the curtain wall weight and strength.

Regarding claims 13, Krauss discloses a curtain wall structure having a framework with a series of panels (fig. 6). Krauss also discloses a panel (fig. 6: 42) being flush with the frame (fig 6: 50) and substantially the same size as the frame openings. Krauss also discloses the panel as having an edge (fig. 6: bottom of 42) as extending normal to the plane of the front frame surface. Krauss also discloses an outer tile (fig. 6: U) which is secured to the insulating panel and to the frame. However, Krauss does not disclose tiles adhered to the panels with silicone. Pracht discloses tiles adhered with silicon (column 1, line 50) to a building wall (abstract). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Krauss by adhering tiles in order to improve the aesthetics and make a better bond to the panel.

Regarding claim 14, Krauss discloses the tiles as being larger than the openings and also discloses the panels as being connected to the frame along the perimeter (fig. 15: where 94 points). However, Krauss does not disclose the panels as being larger than the frame openings. Pracht discloses panels as being larger than frame openings (fig. 10: 67). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Krauss by using a panel of larger size than the opening, as disclosed by Pracht, in order to create a tighter, weather proof seal.

Regarding claims 15, Krauss discloses providing a curtain wall structure having a framework with a series of panels (fig. 6). Krauss also discloses the panel (fig. 6: 42) as

being flush with the frame (fig 6: 50) and substantially the same size as the frame openings. Krauss also discloses the panel as having an edge (fig. 6: bottom of 42) as extending normal to the plane of the front frame surface. Krauss also discloses an outer tile (fig. 6: U) which is secured to the insulating panel and to the frame. However, Krauss does not disclose tiles adhered to the panels with silicone. Pracht discloses tiles adhered with silicon (column 1, line 50) to a building wall (abstract). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Krauss by adhering tiles in order to improve the aesthetics and make a better bond to the panel. Krauss does not specifically mention a light weight panel. However, the panel may be made "light weight" when made with a "light weight" aggregate.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The cited patents listed on the included form PTO-892 further show the state of the art with respect to curtain walls in general.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Basil Katcheves whose telephone number is (703) 306-0232. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Application/Control Number: 10/770,917
Art Unit: 3635

Page 7

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl Friedman, can be reached at (703) 308-0832.

BK


Basil Katcheves

6/10/04

Examiner AU 3635